



News Notes

SMSgt. Selection Celebration – The 15th Airlift Wing and Chief Master Sergeants of Hawaii promotion release party for Team Hickam's newest Senior Master Sergeant selects is Mar. 8, 4:30 p.m. at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. All military and civilian people are invited to attend, for more information, contact CMSgt. Edy Agee at 449-7773

ERAU Spring Semester – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Spring term registration is ongoing. Classes begin on Apr. 3 and end June 12. For more information, stop by Hangar 2, Room 117 or visit the ERAU web site at www.erau.edu/hawaii.

Heart Link – New Air Force spouses are invited to join the Airman and Family Readiness Flight on Mar. 10 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to meet other new Air Force spouses. Participates will learn about Air Force benefits and entitlements and how to adjust to the demands of military life. Lunch and childcare provided. With advanced notice, childcare is also available. Call 449-0300 to register.

Federal employment – A federal employment workshop is Thursday, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Flight. Staff members will help you navigate the application process. The workshop is a step-by-step guide on completing the on-line application.

American Red Cross – Babysitter Training Class for youth ages 11-15 will be held Saturday at 8 a.m. Cost is \$35. Classes fill up fast and payment is due at time of registration. To sign up or for more information call 449-0166.

Book Sale – Hickam Friends of the Library is having their bi-quarterly book sale to raise funds in support of the Hickam Library programs. The next sale is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Paperback purchases are 25 cents and hardbacks are \$1. The Hickam Friends of the

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In this week's Kukini



Bringing home our lost B1

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AF considers F-22A locations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force General T. Michael Moseley stated March 1 the U.S. Air Force preferred alternatives for the third and fourth operational F-22A beddowns are Holloman AFB, New Mexico and Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

“Although we must still complete the environmental analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act before finalizing

our decisions, the preferred third and fourth beddown locations for the F-22A are Holloman Air Force Base and Hickam Air Force Base,” said General Moseley.

The proposed plan is for these units to have active and National Guard personnel at both locations. As the Air Force moves forward with this next generation fighter, combining our forces to leverage our assets with our active duty and guard forces gives us the best

possible team to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America as we continue to fight the global war on terrorism.

The F-22A program of record calls for 183 aircraft with production slated through 2012. Currently the F-22A is based at Langley AFB, Virginia. Elmendorf AFB, Alaska was previously announced as the preferred location for the second operational beddown.

Team Hickam Annual Award Winners



MSgt. Philip Brown, First Sergeant for Pacific Air Forces Regional Supply Squadron, the winner of the Headquarters PACAF First Sergeant of Year congratulates other 15th Airlift Wing and Team Hickam award winners after the Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 24 at the Enlisted Club.

Photographed by Angela Elbern

AFAF drive:100 percent contact

This year's Air Force Assistance Fund kicked off March 1 at the Community Center, with Team Hickam's goal to have 100 percent contact in the first week.

The AFAF provides Airmen the opportunity to contribute to any of the four official Air Force charitable organizations. Second Lieutenant Josh Aultman, Installation Project Officer for AFAF said, “Our goal is to reach out to everyone through unit representatives during the first week instead

of waiting to the last minute. It also gives people time to think about which charity they would like to contribute donations to. This effort is an example of Airmen helping Airmen.”

Last year Team Hickam contributed \$81,203 and used \$191,427 worth of assistance. This year's goal is \$88,883. When we reach this goal our base will receive a cash award from AFAF.

The four beneficiaries are; Air Force Aid Society, Air

Force Village, Air Force Enlisted Village, and the General Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible. For more information, visit afassistancefund.org or the Air Force Personnel Center's voting and fundraising Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund.

More information can also be obtained from your unit representative or, call 2nd Lt. Josh Aultman 449-3507.

75th Anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner – declared National Anthem

*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave? —
Francis Scott Key, 1814*

What am I supposed to do when the national anthem is played?

Everyone should stand at attention facing the flag. American citizens should place their right hand over their heart (a man must remove his hat with the right hand and hold the hat over his left shoulder so that his right hand is over his heart). Military personnel in uniform should salute from the first note to the last of the anthem. If the flag is not displayed, everyone should face toward the music and act in the same manner.

New cell phone policy enforced

Vehicle operators on Hickam and other PACAF installations and operators of government owned vehicles, both on and off base will not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or they are using a hands-free device.

Effective Mar 1, violators of the new cell phone policy will lose their base driving privileges for 30 days. This policy applies to everyone driving on PACAF installations. To view a copy of the PACAF commander's policy contact your unit orderly room.



By Kirsten Tacker
Kukini Photojournalist

Volunteer Air Force members on the East Range, Schofield Barracks, will finish blindly testing today various military uniforms for its blending capabilities in different environmental backdrops.

Uniforms tested were the Marine Corps, woodland and desert, current BDU, current DCU, new Army ACU and the new Air Force utility. Each of the six uniforms was compared in each background to verify which works best for that particular environment.

“Today we are doing the blending test in what is considered more of a jungle environment,” said Katie Leahy, Air Force clothing office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

See UNIFORM, A4



Staff Sgt. Fred Harris 56th ACOMS wears the next generation utility Air Force uniform.

Photo by Kirsten Tacker



We must be battle-ready Airmen

By Col. Bill Changose
15th Airlift Wing commander

This week's Warrior Run began on hallowed ground at the base of Hickam's Freedom Tower and passed by the homes of our loved ones. It needs to be clear, the run, a show of fitness and strength in numbers, should remind us of our duty to be battle-ready Airmen. We all have a responsibility to prepare ourselves for battle and to be able to deploy on a moment's notice. The sound of feet pounding in formation and jody calls are the sounds of strength and unity. These runs create bonds with tenants, squadrons, elements, and individual personnel. To develop a song, each note plays an essential role to the magnitude of that song. A good song can capture spirits and unite souls. There is a unique opportunity for Hickam to demonstrate that unity through song during our monthly Warrior Runs. Last month, family members lined the course and provided us with visuals as to why we need to work so hard to maintain our fitness. I encourage family members to come out and cheer us on. We must be ready to deploy and physically perform when called to duty. Hickam, the music you create within your work has been magnificent. I encourage you to continue to be in song and in step with one another as we continue to move forward with the Air Force mission here in Hawaii.

Congratulations to our annual award winners! Although I know that all of you work hard out of sense of duty rather than for a reward, you need to know that your work has made our Air Force and our country better. An annual award to recognize the best of the best is appropriate.

Sky Warriors, have a great weekend, be safe, look out for one another.



Photo by Angela Elbern

Col. Bill "Goose" Changose, 15th Airlift Wing Commander, speaks during the Annual Award Winners Banquet.

We press on with pride

By Chief Master
Sgt. Paul H. Weseloh
Kenney Headquarters
Command Chief

"There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things."

Although this is a great quote to describe today's Air Force, it was written in 1532 at the height of the Renaissance by Niccolo Machiavelli.

Just as Middle Ages gave rise to the modern world, the Air Force of today faces constant, relevant and necessary changes in order to meet the challenges and threats that our nation may face tomorrow. This week, the new Air Force Vision document was released. It outlines how our "Heritage to Horizons" leadership has built our Air Force and set the course for the future. Airmen serving today know change is an Air Force constant and will press on with pride as we make the necessary modifications to our size and structure over the next few years. But, by reading our vision statement, Airmen will have a better understanding of the course and we are all relevant in the fight.

The stand up of a series of warfighting headquarters across the globe is yet another step toward taking the lead in a new course of evolution. The Kenney Headquarters, much like the new Air Force vision, stands on the principle of "a heritage carried forward." Airmen from across the Pacific have come together in uncertain times and boldly stepped up to the challenge of the provisional warfighting headquar-

ters structure and the results are evident in the continued support of airpower to operations across the U.S. Pacific Command. Whether it's planning and supporting exercises in Thailand, responding to mudslides in the jungles of the Philippines or exceeding airlift mission records in the Antarctic, our Air Force continues to press on.

This week concluded evaluation of testing the new Air Force uniforms at Hickam Air Force Base. Undaunted by change, our Airmen continue to accept the challenges we present. We have a new Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff and soon our Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force will retire...yet the change each has made and brings continues our proud heritage forward. Our Airmen proudly wear whatever color or pattern uniform we provide, follow our leaders' vision, and more importantly press on with pride.

Change does not stop with a new vision, structure or uniform. The world we operate and live in today requires flexible Airmen who are able to operate in a joint fight. Key to the transformation of how we work in a joint environment was the recent introduction of Keystone, a two-week enlisted joint PME course for our senior enlisted leaders focused on joint operations. Force development for our officers, civilians and enlisted are at the forefront of Air Force change.

Be proud to serve in what will likely be one of the most historic times in our Air Force history. Press on with pride, is as relevant in 2006 as it was in 1532 when faced with taking "the lead in the introduction of a new order of things."

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first.

If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

Reserved Parking

Comment: Several coworkers and I were discussing the large number of reserved parking spots that are open when it's nearly impossible to find a place to park on Hickam AFB. While there are valid reasons for assigning reserved parking spaces, we have a proposal to help free up a lot of spaces. Make 30% of existing reserved parking spots into "Reserve Shared" parking, where holders of

Reserve Shared parking passes may park their vehicles. Keep 15% of reserved spaces for individual O6 and above (plus designated VIPs), another 5% for "CMSgt Reserved Shared" parking and open up the remaining 50% of current reserved parking places for everyone else to use. This would provide a much more efficient use of the limited parking that is available on Hickam AFB during peak duty hours while still providing adequate reserved parking.

Response: Thank you for your recommendation. Parking is definitely at a premium around our high use facilities. Reserved parking stalls for the Wing are governed by AFI 31-204, Air Force Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision and the Wing supplement 15AWI 31-204. Generally, reserved stalls are assigned to commanders and first sergeants. Key personnel needing reserved parking stalls at HQ PACAF are determined by the PACAF Director of Staff. We have forwarded your suggestion to PACAF/DS for review and are told

HQ PACAF is currently working a revised parking plan to be released in

March. If you have additional questions, please contact Maj Lisa Redinger, HQ PACAF/CCQ.

Warrior Run

Comment: I'm calling regarding the noise emanating from the "Warrior Run" this morning through base housing. "I have a little one, and the noise woke up and frightened my daughter. They were yelling and screaming when they ran thru the neighborhood. There is a very adequate PE facility or if they want to do it outside, there's a track over next to the bowling center where they wouldn't wake anybody up.

Response: I apologize for the disturbance, however, I solicit your support as we continue these runs on a monthly basis through the housing area. These runs are not just to keep our Team Hickam "sky warriors" physically fit, but also to demonstrate to members of the Hickam Community the "esprit de corps" of Team Hickam. Residents will be notified in advance of the date/time/place of these runs.

Hickam Diamond Tips

Setting the Example



Often times it is easier for us to walk by an infraction and not correct it. Unfortunately when we do that, we endorse the negative behavior and allow it to continue. Uphold the standards regardless of your rank or position. A SNCO

walking around housing without a hat sends a message to all others that it is OK to violate AFI 36-2903. When the neighbor drives by that same SNCO without correcting him, he then enforced the negative behavior. Do not allow this in "OUR" Air Force.

Source: Hickam First Sergeants Questions? Contact your First Sergeant.

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Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 - 500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center
449-0300
Life Skills Support Center
449-0175
Law Enforcement Desk
449-6373
Base Chaplain
449-1754
Military Family Abuse Shelter
533-7125
SARC Hotline
449-7272

HICKAM'S BEST Shine in 2005

**Airman Of The Year
Team Hickam Winner**



**A1C
Patrick A. Teel**
PACAF Computer
Systems Squadron

He engineered a rapid fix action for Yokota AB air operations database that saved more than 420 man-hours. Restored the 354th Fighter Wing flight scheduling software within two hours, returning flying operations to 100 percent.

**Airman of the year
15 AW Winner**



**SrA Daniel A.
Chang**
15th Contracting
Squadron

He was a vital part of Fiscal Year '05 end of year close out with a 99.99% obligation rate, the best in PACAF and prepared \$640,000 for environmental restoration contract exceeding the Air Force's 5 percent annual small business goal.

**NCO of the year
Team Hickam Winner**



**TSgt Michael L.
Brown**

PACAF Regional Supply Squadron
Directed C-17 Initial Spares Support List load and ordered \$2000, in spare parts for a mobility kit fill rate that went from 0 to 92 percent in six months and strengthened PACAF's mobility posture, loaded Boeing spares levels and obligated \$27 million to ensure wing was ready for C-17

**NCO of the year
15 AW Winner**



**TSgt Timothy P.
Tart**
15th Civil Engineer
Squadron

Guided sole Air Force test team on \$17 million joint EOD modernization program that boosted capabilities for 3,000 DOD troops, and led the disposal of a WWII artillery round at a base housing construction site.

**Senior NCO of the year
Team Hickam Winner / 15 AW Winner**



**SMSgt Thomas
A. Shumpert**
15th Civil Engineer
Squadron

Led \$48,000 PACAF commander's loop paving project and the replacement of asphalt worth \$280,000. Constructed 1,500 square feet of offices for 15th Mission Support man-power section saving \$75,000 in construction cost for the new PACAF Warfighter HQ.

**Company Grade Officer of the year
Team Hickam Winner/ 15 AW Winner**



**Capt Andrew C.
Perry**
25th Air Support
Operations Squadron

Led reconstitution of 24 airmen and \$2.2 million in gear following a one year OEF rotation which resulted in combat ready with no delay and coordinated participation in six training deployments and three exercises worth \$150,000.

**Civilian Category I of the year
Team Hickam Winner / 15 AW Winner**



**GS-06 Melissa D.
Cote**
15th Comptroller
Squadron

Collected 23 Jury duty payments worth \$2,441 that ensured employees Certificates of Attendance matched records and processed collection of \$8,000 in outstanding relocation debts resolved difficult two-year problem.

**Civilian Category II of the year
Team Hickam Winner/ 15 AW Winner**



**GS-09 Charlotte
A. Lewis**
15th Services Squadron

Granted \$97,000 to give 54 USAF families the opportunity to send their children to a free week long camp and received one of 80 Nickelodeon \$5,000 educational grants given nationwide to promote and foster youth fitness.

**Civilian Category III of the year
Team Hickam Winner / 15 AW Winner**



**GS-12 Donna
Watson**

15th Airlift Wing Protocol
Directed arrivals and departures for more than 340 Distinguished Visitors to include former President Bush, President Clinton, and numerous congressional delegates, numerous Service secretaries and the Attorney General, key to the arrival of a commercial airliner for 303 returning soldiers from Iraq met by Hawaii Lt. Governor.

**Volunteer of the year
Team Hickam Winner**



**MSgt Jennifer R.
Anderson**
735th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron

She spearheaded Team Hickam "Hurricane Katrina" carwash to benefit victims, raised more than \$4300 and is a Nursery Director at a church for 25 children and arranges bible school through four aides..

**Volunteer of the year
15 AW Winner**



**TSgt Lisa
Thomas**
15th Mission Support
Squadron

She organized volunteers to read to a kindergarten class at Mokulele Elementary and assisted in filling out report cards for more than 800 students and kicked off red ribbon week in support of the school's drug free program.

**First Sergeant of the year
Team Hickam Winner**



**SMSgt Rory E.
Calhoun**
735th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron

Engaged First Sergeants. And instituted education campaign to bolster PME enrollment up 33 percent across all levels and chaired leader panel at ALS. NCO Academy troops received valuable "First Shirt" perspective.

**First Sergeant of the year
15 AW Winner**



**MSgt Terri L.
Cothren**
15th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron

Developed first ever ANG active duty civilian maintenance awards ensured recognition for MXG a force multiplier and drafted MXG writing class, gave supervisors necessary skills to write effective EPRs and awards.

**Honor Guard of the year
Team Hickam Winner**



**SrA Lucia A.
Flores**
15th Aeromedical Dental
Squadron

Raised more than 350 flags over the USS Arizona Memorial. She up-held tradition that recognizes outstanding military service and participated in restoration of USS Missouri.

AF latest uniform board results

Effective immediately, a number of uniform changes, recommended by the 97th Air Force Uniform Board (AFUB) and approved by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, will be implemented. They are as follows:

- Wear of the Headquarters, USAF identification badge. The badge provides a distinct identification of military staff members assigned to Headquarters, USAF (HAF) and the AF Secretariat (SAF). Permanent wear of the badge is authorized for personnel currently assigned, or previously assigned, to a qualifying position for at least 365 consecutive days.
- Wear of the blue nametag with the AF informal uniform. The nametag with abbreviated rank and name on one line is worn by recruiters, fitness center staff, HAWC staff, world class athletes, enlisted aides, honor guard, chaplains and chaplain assistants.
- Standardize cummerbund wear. Pleats will face up for both men and women.
- Prohibit wear of scrunchy as a hair accessory for women.
- Hair pins and bands will match hair color and long hair will be secured with no loose ends.
- Hair color, highlights and frosting will

not be faddish and will be natural looking.

- No shaved head or flat top hairstyles for women.
- Synthetic hair can be worn as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.
- Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized for women.
- Standardize wig/hairpiece wear. Eliminates medical justification for men.
- If due to a temporary medical condition resulting in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap (black or tan), wigs or baldness in uniform.
- Females will not wear shades of nail polish that distinctly contrast with their complexion, that distract from the uniform, or that are extreme. Nail polish will be limited to one color. French manicures are allowed. Nail length will not exceed ½ inch from finger tip.
- Wear of carry type purse with no more than two straps is authorized with the mess dress.
- Reduce bracelet size to ½ inch. Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not authorized. The traditional POW/MIA metal bracelets are still author-

ized. Gemstone or tennis bracelets are only authorized when wearing the mess dress uniform.

- Rings will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb.
- Eyeglasses will not be worn around the neck, on top or back of the head, or exposed/hanging on the uniform.
- Earrings for women will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl, or silver with any uniform combination. They must be worn as a set. If a member has multiple holes only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower ear lobes.
- Optional wear of male flight cap for women.
- Authorize optional epoxy blue name tag, worn on the blue shirt.
- Authorize the wear of the fire fighter duty badge while an individual is assigned to a 3E7X1 DAFSC position, including periods of PME attendance and staff tours above the group level.
- Authorize the wear of Security Forces duty badge and beret while an individual is assigned to 3P0XX DAFSC position and possesses a 3P0XX PAFSC, including PME

attendance and staff tours above the group level.

- Discontinue award of the Air Force good conduct medal. The member may continue to wear those previously earned and a matter of record.
- PT uniform mandatory wear date is set as October 1, 2006 and October 1, 2005, in the AOR.
- Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray and must be conservative. The devices may be clipped to the left side of the waist band or purse, or carried in the left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members will not walk in uniform while using cell phones, radios, hand-free headsets unless required in the performance of official duties using a government issued device. In addition, may use only hands-free headsets or earplugs in the performance of official duties using a government issued device.
- Authorized the permanent wear of the scuba badge on the BDU.

Additional guidance will be forthcoming in the next update of AFI 36-2903, which should be released March 2006.

Team Hickam sends relief aid to Philippines



MACTAN AIR BASE, Philippines – Philippine military personnel down load water and MREs from a C-17 Globemaster III. The composite C-17 squadron of active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard flew their first contingency response mission to deliver relief supplies to the Philippines Feb. 20.

UNIFORM, From A1

“Everything now we are doing here is considered woodland, when we go to base X we are going to try and do a desert looking thing.”

The Army Natick Soldier Center team has designed the testing on the East Range to be divided it into six stations at two different distances. The 22 observers carry a test booklet and go from random station to station, never following the same pattern.

“It’s a comparison in all these environments, we are here for three environments,” said Ms. Leahy. “They do three backgrounds in each environment. “They are not expecting people to not see the uniform.”

Since all the services have gone different ways on their uniform, the idea behind the testing is just to find out which uniforms work or doesn’t work in a certain backdrop.

“Right now we have an Air Force distinctive uniform and that is what’s going forward and it is the green tiger stripe that you’ve seen,” said Ms. Leahy.

Staff Sgt. Fred Harris, 56th Air and Communications Squadron wore the Air Force uniform for the days testing and said it was comfortable.

“It is pretty much the same, on the pockets except for the bottom of the blouse and it fits snug and is more tapered, there is a pocket inside that is pretty nice,” concluded Sergeant Harris.

Don't forget

to file your taxes you still have 42 days until April 14. All activity duty, Reserve, Guard members and retirees along with their families. A valid military ID card is required. To make an appointment call 448-0712.

Tax Center

Crime Scene

Hit and run

An Air Force civilian employee notified Security Forces and reported her vehicle was struck by another vehicle. The unknown individual who struck her vehicle exited the vehicle and stated he did not hit her vehicle and then drove away from the scene.

Theft of private property

An Air Force family member reported his fishing navigation equipment was found missing from his boat. Estimated cost of stolen merchandise: \$2,500.

Damage to personal property

An active duty Air Forces member reported his vehicle was damaged in front of Hickam Medical center. Estimated cost of damages: \$700.

National Patient Safety Week

This year’s observation of National Patient Safety Week will take place from Sunday through Mar 11. The theme of this year’s event is “Our Patients – Our Partners, One Team, One Goal.”

The 15th Medical Group reminds everyone to be an active participant in your healthcare. There will be informational items available to the public on Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the first floor lanai area of the clinic.

The patient safety movement involves patients, families and healthcare professionals; it is critical to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of incorporating the patient and family perspective at every point along healthcare decision-making and delivery.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with the American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association developed five steps (<http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/5steps.htm>) to assist the healthcare consumer:

1. Ask questions if you have doubts or concerns. Ask questions and make sure you understand the answers. Choose a doctor you feel comfortable talking to. Take a relative or friend with you to help you ask questions and understand the answers.
2. Keep and bring a list of all the medicines you take. Give your doctor and pharmacist a list of all the medicines that you take, including non-prescription medicines. Tell them about any drug allergies you have. Ask about side effects and what to avoid while taking the medicine. Read the label when you get your medicine, including all warnings. Make sure your medicine is what the doctor ordered and know how to use it. Ask the pharmacist about your medicine if it looks different than you expected.
3. Get the results of any test or procedure. Ask when and how you will get the results of tests or procedures. Don't assume the results are fine if you do not get them when expected, be it in person, by phone, or by mail. Call your doctor and ask for your results. Ask what the results mean for your care.
4. Talk to your doctor about which hospital is best for your health needs. Ask your doctor about which hospital has the best care and results for your condition if you have more than one hospital to choose from. Understand instructions you get about follow-up care when you leave the hospital.
5. Make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery. Make sure you, your doctor, and your surgeon all agree on exactly what will be done during the operation. Ask your doctor, "Who will manage my care when I am in the hospital?" Ask your surgeon: Exactly what will you be doing? About how long will it take? What will happen after the surgery? How can I expect to feel during recovery?

Tell the surgeon, anesthesiologist, and nurses about any allergies, bad reaction to anesthesia, and any medications you are taking.

A complete listing of the 2006 National Patient Safety goals can be found at: http://www.jcaho.org/accrdited+organizations/patient+safety/06_npsg/06_facts.htm . View Joint Commission reports of healthcare facilities in your area at: <http://www.jcaho.org/qualitycheck/directry/consumer/zipcode.aspx>

(Courtesy 15th Medical Group)



Editor's Note: To read the complete stories and find more Air Force News, go to www.af.mil.

First deployed civilian sexual assault response coordinator (SARC) arrives in region

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) – Airmen already know the pace here is much different than home. “Frenetic” is the word Donna Rathbun uses to describe the operations tempo on base.

“The mission is always in the forefront,” she said. “There isn’t time for outside distractions or mistakes. Airmen are working long hours, and there’s very little time to get to know people personally.”

These factors together contribute to the possibility of sexual assault occurring in the war zone, said Ms. Rathbun, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. As the first Air Force civilian sexual assault response coordinator, or SARC, to deploy to the region, she offers unique insight on the challenges facing deployed Airmen.

“A lot of times, younger Airmen are already homesick,” she said. “(The women) miss the companionship of other female friends they have back home. This makes them more vulnerable and trusting and, in turn, potential victims of sexual assault.”

*Story by Maj. Ann P. Knabe
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs*

Program speeds up complaint processes

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Air Force officials here recently extended an Equal Employment Opportunity pilot program from 31 test bases to all installations worldwide.

The program, called the Compressed Orderly Rapid Equitable process, or CORE,

Combat search and rescue realigns



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky A. Bloom

A simulated injured Airman is carried by Air Force pararescuemen toward a Marine CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter during a search and rescue exercise Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006, at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. Administrative control for select active-duty Air Force combat search and rescue assets is transferring from Air Force Special Operations Command to Air Combat Command, the Air Force announced Feb. 27.

focuses on cutting EEO’s case-processing time. In conjunction with the General Accounting Office, Air Force officials are also evaluating the results of the test’s first nine months.

“The initial indications are that the program is working as designed,” said Rita Looney, Air Force Civilian Appellate Review Office director.

Under federal law, it is government policy to provide equal opportunity in federal employment for all people, and to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin. The EEO office works to ensure that law is followed, and to resolve problems or complaints within the system.

A congressional mandate established the pilot program to develop and test alternate EEO complaint processes. The Department of Defense approved the Air Force as one of three agencies to conduct the tests, along

with the Defense Logistics Agency and the Defense Commissary Agency.

CORE stresses the use of alternated dispute resolution, or ADR, early in the complaint process. ADR is a tool for resolution of disputes through means other than a trial. However, if ADR is not used or is unsuccessful, the CORE process combines the two time-consuming steps of the original EEO process into one-step that is shorter and less formal.

AF vision embraces warfighters, heritage

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Heritage, future innovations and focus on the joint warfighter are three key points in the newly released Air Force Vision document, “Lasting Heritage...Limitless Horizons: A Warfighter’s Vision.”

This vision document, released to

Airmen worldwide Feb. 28, replaces the older “Vision 2020” version, which was released in 1997, and focused on preparation for the then-upcoming turn of the century.

“Many of the same themes appear in both documents, such as innovation and Airmen as warfighters” said Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne. “(Yet) the overall theme (of the recent document) stresses that Airmen will continue to live up to their rich heritage, and push the Air Force to an even better horizon.”

“Heritage to horizon” is a strong message in the document, exemplified by timelines, quotes from past senior leaders and brief reviews on past Air Force missions.

“From the days of Chenault and aviation, from Schriever, from LeMay, from Stuart Symington who was the first Secretary of the Air Force, it has always been about innovation,” Secretary Wynne said. “It has always been about pursuit of excellence. It’s always been about using and pushing the boundaries of technology into a future that was relatively unknown.”

While the document is heavy in Air Force history, its outline for the Air Force’s future is made clear with references to new technology, total force concepts, and fighting the global war on terrorism.

“To realize the vision, we have three priorities: maintain a razor-sharp focus on fighting this global war on terrorism, continue developing our Airmen, and recapitalize and modernize our inventory,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff. “Meeting these challenges will require bold new initiatives. Our Airmen understand this intuitively. They build on a distinguished and lasting heritage. They will push the Air Force beyond the horizon.”

“We updated the vision to show how the Air Force is and will remain engaged in the Global War on Terror, (and how it) continues to embrace dramatic business practices and strives to achieve our bold future,” Secretary Wynne said. “The chief of staff and I are committed to developing the best Airmen and providing them with the best equipment and weapons to do their job.”

NOTES, From A1

Library are located in Building 1711 (Kuntz Avenue) next to Airman's Attic. For more information call, Kelly Wright at 349-1098.

Recognition – The 15th Airlift Wing commander wants to thank the members of Team Hickam who go above and beyond in improving the quality of life at Hickam.

Anyone who identifies facility problems, or who takes the time to improve some part of our installation is eligible for coupons good at various Services outlets. For more information contact Joel Shaw at 448-1575.

Scholarship – The Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant is available to Air Force dependents accepted to or attending college in the mainland for the academic year 2006-2007.

The application deadline is Mar. 10. For more information, call Merlyn Bacungan at 449-0300.

Academy briefing – There will be a briefing on the U.S. Air Force Academy for all interested people Mar. 10 at 1 p.m. in Hangar 2, Room 126. Col. (ret.) Lawrence Roller, the Academy admissions liaison officer, will show a video and present information for members interested in attending the Academy.

This briefing is in addition to the regular commissioning briefing given the first Friday of every month. For more information or to sign up, call 449-6363.

Dining Out – The Univ. of Hawaii's ROTC program will host a Dining Out and Alumni reunion Mar. 4. To reserve a seat at the event, send an email levien@hawaii.edu by Tuesday.

WBU – Wayland Baptist University offers associates, bachelors and masters

degrees in a variety of programs. Registration for the spring term begins Monday. Classes will begin in March and April. For more information, call 422-6777, stop by the office in Hangar 2 or check out the WBU web site at www.wbu.edu/hi.

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